HOUSE . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

Michael P. Kushmerek

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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions.

_____

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Michael P. Kushmerek	*3rd Worcester*	*1/13/2025*

HOUSE . . . . No.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *524* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

_____

An Act to end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1   SECTION 1. Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after

2   section 5B the following section:-

3   Section 5C. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the

4   following meanings:

5   "Eligible applicant", a student that meets the requirements to be promoted to the

6   applicable grade. Any admission offered to an applicant before having been promoted to the

7   applicable grade shall be contingent only upon promotion.

8   "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education.

9   (b) If there are more eligible applicants than spaces available for admission to a

10   vocational-technical school or vocational-technical program within a vocational-technical school

11   or comprehensive high school, whether or not the program is approved under this Chapter

12   and including exploratory programs, the school shall hold a blind lottery to determine which

13   applicants shall be admitted. No eligible applicant shall be required to submit anything to

14   participate in the lottery other than the school the eligible applicant is currently enrolled in and

15   contact information as determined relevant by the school.

16   (c) Each school shall place eligible applicants who entered the lottery but were not

17   admitted on a waitlist, the order of which shall be determined by the lottery. The waitlist shall

18   include the names, home address, telephone number and grade level of such students and any

19   other information the department deems necessary. The school shall forward the waitlist to the

20   department of education no later than June 1 in the year in which the lottery is held. The

21   department shall maintain a consolidated waitlist in order to determine the number of individual

22   students in each city or town seeking admission to vocational-technical education schools and

23   programs. If a school fills a vacancy after the initial admissions cycle is completed, said school

24   shall fill the vacancy with the next available student on the waitlist and shall continue through

25   the waitlist until a student fills the vacant seat.

26   (d) The commissioner shall collect application, admission, enrollment, and waitlist data

27   pertaining to at a minimum race, ethnicity, students with disabilities, economically

28   disadvantaged students, and English language learners. The commissioner shall also collect data

29   on the number of students enrolled in each vocational technical education program receiving

30   services pursuant to chapter 71A, chapter 71B or both. The commissioner shall annually file said

31   data with the clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on education and make said

32   data available to the public online not later than November 1.

33   (e) The board shall promulgate regulations for implementation and enforcement of this

34   section.